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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 19 | SAGINAW, MICHIGAN | MAY 12, 1972

Mr. Joe Garcia Director of Latin American Affairs Along with and Black and Mexican American concerned Parents.

LONGSTREET SCHOOL GETS OBJECTIONS TO BLACK & CHICANO CLASSES

"We don't think Black and Chicano Culture Classes should be taught at this school. "It teaches the black children to hate the white children." This is the latest news over at Longstreet Elementary School.

"Why NOT"? is the more concerned question. There was a special meeting held Thursday May 4th by Longstreet's Advisory Council, concerning the difficulties and dissagreements between twelve white and five black teachers in regards to Black & Chicano Culture Classes. As a matter of fact Longsteet School is 98% Black and Chicano children, to narrow it down to facts only four white children attend Longstreet.

Why can't these children be taught of their culture and heritage of their forefathers? This is exactly what Longstreets Advisory Council held their meeting for. Miss Florence Allen; Chairman of the Advisory Council talked with concerned parents, and also the twelve white teachers (who didn't show up), to discuss these rumors circulating around the school. There was also another meeting held previously in which there were only four-out-of five black teachers present, and one out of twelve white.

If children learn history of the white man, why not have a half semester of history of the black man. Why do we black and Chicano people have to have our history limited to one week of the year. We have adequate materials for our history to be taught throughout the year, so what is the hang-up. Many people are not even aware of the varous materials available. This is why Longstreet School held a Minority Book Fair for the purpose of informing people of a place to order these books from.

Mrs. Angeline Vernon who was hired at Longsteet School as a Career Advisor is directing many black and chicano culture programs. She realizes that her students need guidance in their culture and this is important. Many of these kids under Angie's direction have more SOUL than some of your grown children. Culture is like disipline, you have to start them young or not at all.

Mrs. Vernon and Mr. Zackrie Principal of Longsteet School have tried their pumost to direct the students in the right direction, the direction of being familiar with themselves and their environment. That is what makes a good principal. Mr. Zakerie is looking out for his students, thinking in the best interest of his students. and that is why he is disliked.

According to one parent if the white teachers of Longstreet School do not want to be supervised by a black man, and they say they are afraid to attend meetings, then they need not be teaching in a black school. The Advisory Council feels if the white teachers won't meet and communicate with the blacks, how can anything be accomplished. Florance Allen stated, anyone can have their differences, they are entitled to them, but there must be a reason which should be brought forth, and people have a right to know these reasons. The parents and Advisory Board present feel they have a good principal and they are going to stand by him 100%.

Miss Florence Allen, Chairman of Longstreet Advisory Council

One Chicano mother present, Mrs. George Castaneda stated there aren't enough Chicano activities in the school, and that there has never been any disagreement in the past of this kind between the teachers, why is there disagreement now? Mrs. Billy Morris a member of the Advisory Council added that these programs are always under pressure at the school and that is the reason for not so many Chicano activities. Another things about the differences between white and black teachers is that the black people are becoming aware and speaking up for themselves, we no longer are afraid to be fired, lay off, suspended, or what ever. She also added that the Advisory Council is trying to get the parents involved with school activities. There is no need to sit back and say "I heard this and I heard that", get involved and you'll know 'what is going on'. We are trying to keep a good relationship between the teachers and the principal at all times. If one has a problem, lets meet together and try to solve that problem.

Mrs. Johnnie McMeaneer another interested parent stated she has visited the school many times, and when you come to her home if you are welcome you are asked to have a sit, but she was never asked to have a sit. This didn't make any difference to Mrs. McMeaneer because she took one anyway. She committed that she has seen many school teaching that she didn't quite approve of.

Another involved parent Mrs. Johnnie DeBardelaben stated, "Parents you must cooperate with the schools". There are some White people and some Black people who want everything to go their way, so parents get involved so you can have your say.

Get Hipped!! If you want your children to be taught the things many of us never knew about, the facts that make a person realize who they are and how their heritage came about . . . STAND up for your Black & Chicano Culture Classes . . . and STAND behind your teachers that "KNOW WHERE IT'S AT."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY MOTHERS !!!

As you know sons and daughters Mother's day is Sunday May 14th, the one day our mothers have during the whole 365 days of the year to really celebrate by not cooking, cleaning working, or to get disgusted with their children on.

How many of you children really know what a mother is? Not many by what I have seen day to day. A mother is more to you than anything else in this world. She is more than a job, money, fun, more than anything. A mother is the woman who brought you into this world (which many mothers have their second thoughts about today--Smiles). She is the woman who is always there when you were sick, hungry, and unhappy. The woman that did for you in many ways instead of doing special things for herself.

The respect for a mother was degraded throughout the past years, I guess it's the change in the children. too often Mothers are disrespected, let down, and not given any credit.

Kids why not surprise your Mother this Mothers' Day. If you don't have but 50 cents for allowance (more than what I got when I was younger) stop in at a neighboring five & ten store and instead of getting all your money in candy buy your Mother a nice little gift. If it is nothing but a card, she won't mind. And to all the little children who were very unpleasing for the last couple of days, and don't plan on getting an allowance this week, borrow just a little money from your father to get a little something. For the rest of y ou out there who don't get an allowance, Sunday morning get up real early and help "Momma" cook dinner, or wash some dishes and help clean the house.

MOTHER WILL LIKE THAT--- YES SHE WILL ! ! ! ! !

THE VALLEY STAR

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Jim Colvin

OPEN LETTER TO BLACK COMMUNITY

It is an obvious fact that when people are apathetic and refuse to show an interest in the problems that affect the, they are perfect pawns for those who seek to exploit—the greedy politicians or those so called leaders who couldn't care less about the welfare of the underprivileged and the poor.

Apparently, the consensus among too many deprived people is that somebody will always look after them, that elected officials will automatically relate to the people's problems. And many in this category don't even vote. They contribute absolutely nothing.

There are a few officeholders who fight for you despite the great hazards the apathetic present. But they are fighting against tremendous odds, because they are reminded time and time again by their peers that the they are fighting for don't care.

Moreover, it seems that the ones who fight the hardest are the ones critized the most by those they are trying to help. Therefore, many have stopped fighting so hard.

But if everybody in the struggle falls by the wayside, exploitation and repression such as you have not yet seen, will converge upon those who cannot help themselves like a pack of wolves on their prey. We cannot afford to allow this to happen. That is the reason we keep pleading with those of you who have thus far refused to budge from your apathy, to arouse yourselves and the aware of the grave danger surrounding you.

It isn't easy to keep struggling in what many times seems like a hopeless cause, but it isn't impossible.

THE EDITOR

JOYCE'S PLACE

This letter was received by Joyce's Place and asked that it appear in my column. The person who wrote it ask that their name be omitted.

Have you been wondering what happened to the letters you've been writing to your favoriate D.J. at WWWS Radio, to the request and dedications that you sent in, the Roll Call on C.J.'s Morning show, the Blood Sound Contest on Gene Soul Blood's Show and the Lucky Listeners Contest on Don Juan's Show?

Everyone knows how popular our Black owned and operated radio station WWWS is and no one knows it better than the personal at the radio station. It is very important to have contact with the people, the fans and listeners to let them know that their support is appreciated. Acknowledgement of the many letters, dedications and request, filling those request and dedications are very important to the people who are sending them in but until last week, they have become very unimportant to the head personal at the radio station. The listeners of WWWS really dig the D.J.'s, their style, the jams, the contest and hearing their names on the radio. This is something that is really sharp to them; not just the younger people but also the older people. The people must be involved with this station, they should be shown appreciation for their support but they are now getting the deaf ear to their much needed support. Without the people of Saginaw and surounding cities, there would not be a Black Radio Station located in Saginaw---not one that is well liked, not one that would be prosperous and rated very highly. Is in not true that we are suppose to help each other, that we are SOMEBODY? as it is, to the Head Personal at the radio station, we are NO BODY! We are not important enough to have our letters, dedications and the like acknowledged. We.re a NO BODY, so the popular contest are cut out, we can't be heard, therefore, we are inclined to believe that we are not appreciated and we are not needed by WWWS Radio Station. If we are not needed at this station, perhaps our support should be given to another Black Radio Station.

Also it seems very unfair to apply decision to all of the disc jockeys but one. During the noon hour from 12:00 to 1:00 the station has a Chris Banks Spiritual Hour. On this show, you are urged to send in your dedications and request, none over the phone but they can be sent through the mail. The peoples names are mentioned over the air and the letters are acknowledged. On Sunday mornings, the same thing goes on but when Soulful Randy Heflin gets ready to do his show, its another theing. Back to no names, no dedications, no requests, no acknowledgement of the cards, letters and supporting fans and listeners. We are not knocking God and his teachings and the Gospel songs but what is good for some listeners of WWWS is good for all the listeners and all the supporters. The noon spiritual show is well liked and supported but so are the other shows and the D.J.'s, Their response is Warm and Welcomed by the people.

Like it was mentioned earlier in this writing, it is so very important to the public, the listeners to have contact with the disc jockeys and their programs, contest and whatever they have on their program. The people want to dnow they are appreciated. The station should want the people to know they are appreciated but from the steps that were recently taken, the people are being showed that they are not thought about, let alone appreciated. I am sure many have noticed the change. You have probably called station only to be told that no dedications and request can be taken and all contest have been dropped. To the people this is a LET – DOWN. I urge you to write to the radio station and express your self on this matter. Send your cards and letter to :
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CENTRAL JR. HIGH HAS CHICANO EMPHASIS WEEK

April 24 thru the 28th brought forth Chicano Empasis Week at Central Jr. High School. Guest speaker and Mistress of Ceremonies was Miss Rosa Morales from T.V. 5

The program began with the National Anthem and the Pledge to the Flag led by Juan Rodriguez. Next there were two music numbers given by Centrals Vocal Music Department with Mrs. Montelo the music teacher on panio, and Charles Braddock on the Mor-oco's.

Miss Morales then announced the most exciting portion of the assembly, a fashion show with accomodated music by Central's Band playing the latest beats. Rosa told of the Chicano fashions, styles, and meanings as each young women or young man walked across the stage. Some of the fashions were the cowboy outfit; well know punch-o which everybody wears; the nickers (riding pant type) and many other styles. Some of these outfits were actually made by the students themselves. But the most original outfit was the evening wear of the Chicano's, the dress was fantastic. The skirt of the dress bore various types of fancy designs and flashy jewerly, which is what made the dress so original.

A slide presentation was also shown as a part of the assembly. This area of entertainment was very educational and interesting at that. The slides caught almost every eye in the audience. There were slides of Chicano bakeries, stores, restaurants, shows, barbers, secretaries, jobs, nuns, nurses, feasta's, dress, churches, singing groups, graduations, schools, art work, Indians, books, so many interesting items were shown. One point that really went across to the students was the Chicano people of American take great pride in their Culture and heritage, and they also have done many good things, and achieved many good points in America.

Last but not least of the assembly was a very cute scene. The Pinata, a well known tradition of the Chicano Americans, a large shaped animal made from pasted newspapers, plaster, or wire with surrounding paper filled with goodies for the kids. It hangs from the ceiling down to a stick reaching length. The lucky person (usually person having a birthday or just a special occasion) will be blind folded something like 'pin the donkey' and swing with the stick until he or she hits the Pinata and it bursts with sweets and toys.

During the complete week for Chicano Emphasis there were many activities happening: Monday—Chicano Emphasis there were many activities happening: Monday—Chicano History, Resource People: Mr. Peregrino and Mr. Marques—Tuesday—Chicano Dress and Art, Resource People: Mr. Kundinger, K-Mart—Wednesday—Chicano Menu in Cafeteria, Resource People: Mr. Tony Olvera of Taco Villa—Thursday—Assembly—Friday—Teacher Exchange Day with students.

According to Mr. Iving Burt, Principal of Central Jr. High School in a couple of weeks Central will have "Human Relations Day" so they won't miss anybody!!! (Smiles)

Photos page Nine

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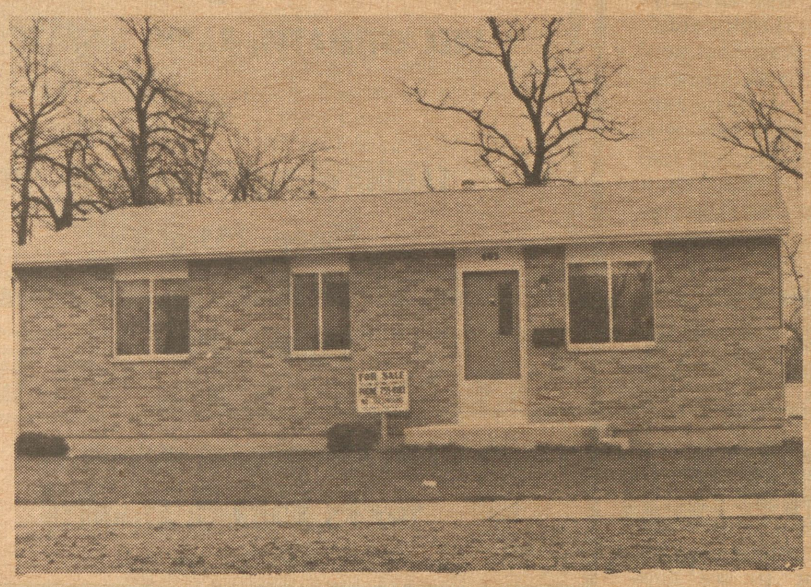

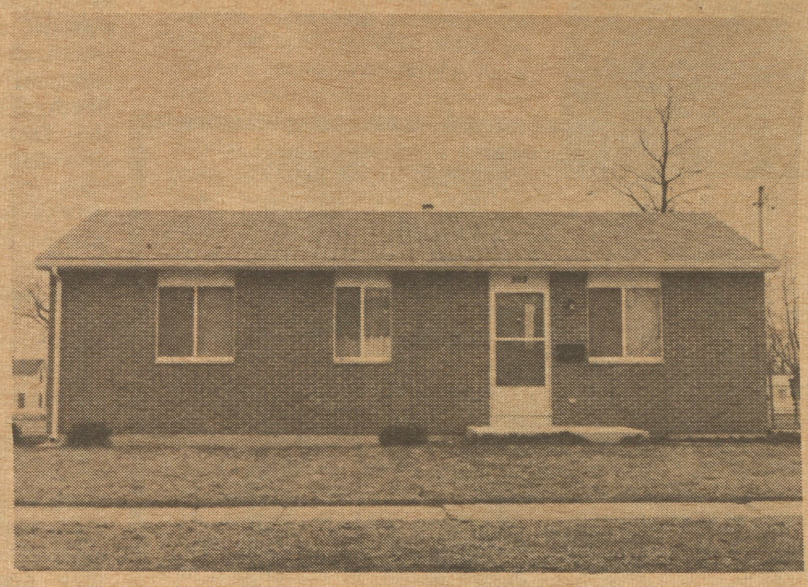

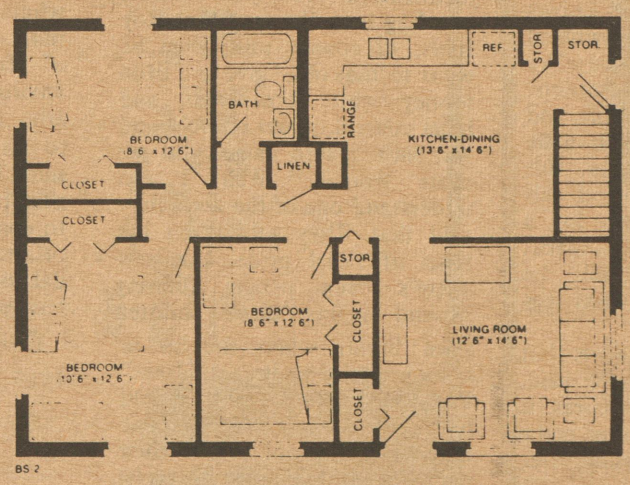

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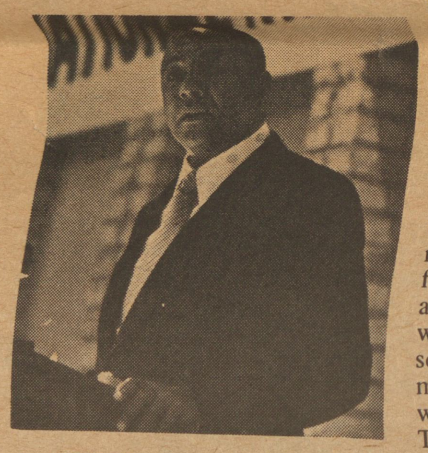
The Cities of America Today Are SandBoxes

Continued from last weeks Article



CARL T. ROWAN

The National MC

Now, I want to say something about the hustlers who are exploiting and bastardizing the idea of citizen participation; who are using it to cop out, even to chicken-back to that old system of separate but equal. If our cities face the crisis today it is because white people know where they are running and that's away from black people. But black Americans haven't the foggiest idea where they're going. The busing controversy and the recent black political clam-bake in Gary, Indiana, are sadly typical of black confusion. Busing is the phoniest issue ever foisted upon the American people, but recently it has become probably the most potent political issue.

Now, I know the wake of the Florida primary a lot of people want to blame only George Wallace from Alabama, for the busing issue. Don't blame George Wallace for making it the important political issue it is. He's ridden it with great skill. I blame Richard Nixon for making it a political issue. Because it out of the White House, the phrase, "forced busing," became a part of the language. Blame the politicians who crumbled in the face of Wallace's rhetoric for allowing it to become such a political issue.

I just look at them and shake my head and remember my days in McMinniville, Tennessee. Hell, they didn't bus me out of my neighborhood past all of those while schools to get me to a Jim Crow school. They made me walk. That's been going on in Maryland until recently and I didn't hear a word out of Spiro Agnew, but suddenly he's talking about the sanctity of the neighborhood school. So, the full effect is that there are an awful lot of blacks who've done what whites have done. They've scrounged up their money and moved into neighborhoods where there was a good school. They don't want their kid going to that school "over there." And you get some of them screaming to high heavens too, when somebody talks about moving their kids back to an inferior school. But the simple fact of life is that some measure of busing is absolutely essential if we're going to wipe out the injustices that have existed for too long in the American cities. I know that nobody's stupid and its these Federal judges who make those rulings. Take Judge Larry Steiny in Richmond, he's no carpet-bagger somebody hustled in from Peking, Moscow or Bangor, Maine; he's been there all of his life. He knows what these fellows club members have done. They've germinandered his districts. They've built their schools, and sat around and had their little meetings; that over here, this school be 98% white, and this school over on this little lot, a cow pasture, will be 99% black. And everything will be copeacetic. He knew what was going on.

And what's happened is that the Federal judges have said, "O.K." the funny business is over." Well, we had a man come before the Mondale committee in Washington. This schools superintendent from Dayton County, Florida about two years ago said, "This may be the end of my political life, but let me tell you something, if we have to bus, we're going to bus. If we have to pair schools, we're going to pair schools. If we have to regerimander districts, we're going to re-gerimander districts. But we're going to bring some justice back into the school system of Dayton County." And one of the other Senators said, "Well, why do you have to do this? Look, we've been kidding ourselves too long, we white people who run the system." He said, "I sat down with myself and I'd answered myself honestly, as long as all of my affluent influential friends have their children over here in this school, and all of the poor people and the black people, and the Cubans, and the Puerto Ricans have their kids over in this school there is no way in the name of God the poor people over here can get the same consideration and the terms of funds for teachers or facilities as the fat cats over here." And he said, "I guarantee you one thing, as soon as we put some of the children of the fat cats over in this school, they're going to be donw in my office, shaking their fists and raising hell, "You give that school some money and some good teachers. And the only way we're going to get quality education in this country is to mix the kids up. And don't you know, I Know?" I guess not, but I guarantee you, if I call the mayor's office in Washington, I get about 43,000 more considerations than does some poor guy out in the black ghettos of Washington. I mean, let's not kid ourselves, let's KNOW HOW the situation works in this country. So what do we get? We get a black political clam-bake in Gary where the separatists and the black nationalists do a little maneuvering and they wind up opposing busing and opening for separate but equal schools with almost the same stridency of George Wallace. Well, I understand the frustrations that existed at the conference. It was born our of dual frustration. The Republican party has virtually written off the black vote, specifically in the cities that you represent; and it's operating on a Southern suburban strategy; and the Democrats who had the overwhelming majority of the black votes for so long, that they've just plain taken it for granted. You have the politicans in Gary groping for a way to shake somebody up so the black man can get a little consideration. Well, I hope that they did shake the people up but I don't think that they're going to shake Richard Nixon and John Mitchell up to the point where they abandon their Southern and suburban strategy. Their real hope is that they can grant a few concessions because they don't want to see any blacks form a fourth party. However; if there is any justification for the blacks crawling into the trap that Roy Innis, of course, said when he went to that old, "give us a little money white boss man, and local control of our schools, and we ain't gonna cause you no more trouble." Well, I can understand one of the ways they sold that. They sold it on the basis of racial pride. You see, there's been people running around saying,"Black children learn better when they're in school with white children." Well, what they really should have said, and it'sunderstandable that blacks would regret their condescending claims of racial superiority. What should have been said is that, "deprived youngsters from under-priviledged environment, whatever their race, achieve more, faster when they're put in a reasonably priviledged environment among youngsters who are well motivated." Now to put it that way, we can justify some busing on the very grounds that justice does not permit us to continue in our cities to fence off poor deprived youngsters in delapidated schools with poor environments where virtually all

Continue on page Eight

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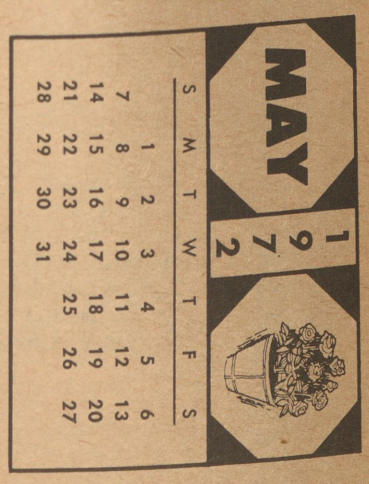

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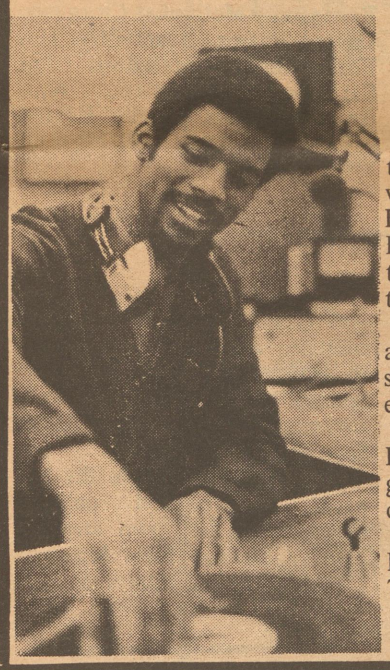

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CARRIE COOKS

SECRETARY OF THE WEEK
By Judy Colvin

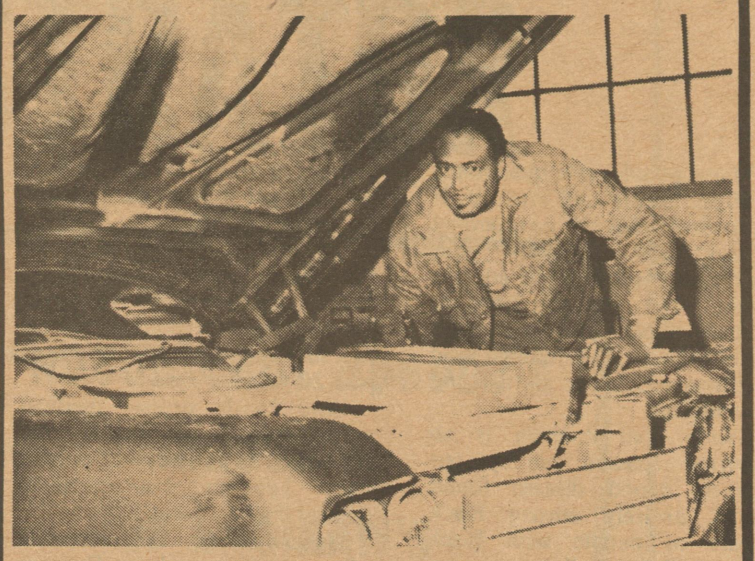
Valley Star salutes as "Secretary of the Week" this week Mrs. Carrie Cooks a Secretary for Trinity Luthern School.

Carries daily activities consist of typing of forms, and letters, taking core of daily lunch money that is brought to school with the children from home for hot-lunches, she keeps files of scheduled classes, reports, and does quite a few different errands frequently for instance taking children to libraries and to the Dental Clinic. Many Times secretaries are used for akk jobs around the office. They not only type, file, and smile during the day, but they take care of business too.

Carrie stated she enjoys her work at Trinity Luthern School because she has "freedom of movement", meaning there is a wonderful environment which makes a person feel welcome to work around and Mrs. Cooks knows what her duties are and doesn't wait for someone to point them out. She not only does her work good but she gets involved within her work, which always makes production best.

Previously being a teachers-aid at one of Buena Vista District school's Carrie has been closely associated with children quite a while. She has four children of her own, Lamont; Derrick: Patrica: and James. She has also been attending Delta College for the past year nights for her degree as a Registered Nurse. She will continue in September full time to complete her course.

DON'T TAKE CHANCES



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OPEN HOUSE AT TRINITY

Classes were conducted as usual during the open house held at Trinity Luthern School, 346 So. Ninth. Parents and other interested people visited the classrooms on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 2nd and 3rd. Since the purpose of this open house was to acquaint adults with the normal school functions, rather than to display the children, no special activities were prepared.

Parents watched the children in action from Kindergarten through the eighth grade. They saw ungraded reading classes; they saw math contracts being fulfilled; they saw individualized spelling and English sessions; they saw special reading "catch-up" classes; they saw singing and art activities; they say boys and girls training for state and city Luthern Tract meets; they watched plants grow and fertilized eggs develop; they watched some lessons that were exciting and some that were not; they watched children being noisy and children being quiet; they joined the children in the weekly chapel worship service. In short, visitors had the opportunity to enjoy the regular school day with the pupils.

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SICKLE CELL ANEMIA: PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY

By
Ann Bryant, R. N.

Many people have questioned us about Sickle Cell Anemia. It is our hope that the next several articles will answer your questions. And will do so in a manner that you will have no doubts about its past and present course. All material used in these articles is factual and documental.

Sickle Cell Anemia is an inherited (passed on by our parents) blood disease found almost entirely among Black people or people with Black heritage. Sickle Cell Anemia is a blood disease, it is a disease of the red blood cells. The red blood cells are round and they carry oxygen (air) from the lungs to all parts of the body. But in this disease the red blood cells are no longer round but are shaped like a sickle, therefore the founder of the disease named it Sickle Cell. Anemia is a condition where there is not enough red blood cells in the blood—for any reason, it might be due to not enough iron. However, when one does not have enough red blood cells in the blood, because the round cells have sickled, we say the person has Sickle Cell Anemia.

Sickle Cell Anemia is not contagious. That is one cannot contact is from another person. We only get it from our parents, we are born with it.

There is no known cure for the disease, and it often proves fatal before adolescence. Doctors say the victim's chances for survival improve once he is past 20 years of age.

And, with proper medical attention, SCA victims can survive up to and beyond middle age, leading comparatively normal lives.

Specialists say the disease is often misdiagnosed by Doctors who fail to identify its symptoms. Sickle Cell Anemia shortens some people's lives.

The first cases of Sickle Cell Anemia is believed to have occured in prehistoric times among the Veddsids of what is now Arabia. From there it was apparently carried eastward into parts of Asia, southward throughout Africa, northward into the Mediterranean region, and later, via slave ships, westward to north and south America. While the sickle trait is found primarily among Negoroid or Black people, it also occurs in some caucasions or whites and mangoloids or oriental, being rather common in certain populations outside of America.

GROUP ORGANIZED FOR SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

BENEFIT – JUNE 8, 1972

Increasing anziety over the plight of persons and families victimized by the painful blood disease, Sickle Cell Anemia, has prompted a group of Saginaw area men and women to meet, talk, and organize, in order to more effectively aid these affected. Although the group's ultimate goals are; to aid in research and to establish a local Sickle Cell Foundation, the Sickle Cell Council will immediately concern itself with direct aid by paying hospital and medical expenses of suffers of the disease, where all other avenues of help have been exhausted.

A Benefit Banquet will be held June 8, 1972, Thursday, at 7:00 P.M., 10:30 P.M. at the Diplomat, 3rd and Lapeer. The community is asked to purchase tickets, The fight as you must see, is ours! Individual donations, which are tax deductible, will purchase the food. Funds from the sale of ticket will go directly to victims of Sickle Cell Anemia. Donations are welcome. Each person donating will receive a receipt and all council records will be available.

Ticket Donation is $5.00 a plate. Tentative our guest speaker will come from the Sickle Cell Detection and Information Center, Kirwood Hospital, Detroit.

The Sickle Cell Council members are: Joyce McClaine, Mrs. Carlean Beatty, Chairmen, and Nell Kelly, R. N. PUBLICITY AND Nurses; Cal Beatty, Publicity. Franklin Gary-Program, Roy McBride—Records, Lillian Robinson— Methodist Churches, Daisy Williams—Hospitality, Tim Foster—Public Relations Jim Colvin—Publicity, Ann Bryant—Tickets and Baptist Churches, Robert Viera—Tickets.

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CHICANO POWER

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

By Jane Hensier

Presidential hopeful, New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm visited Tri-City Airport Sunday, May 7th. She greeted a crowd of about 300 enthusiastic people even though the weather was very cold and damp.

Mrs. Chisholm intends to break the barrier so that the people can be heard from. She feels she is "the candidate responsive and committed to the people". Why? The Congress woman goes directly to the people, she does not have the large labor vote or is not a candidate of direct interest groups. She has spent time working with Indians on reservations, and speaks fluent Spanish to Chicanos.

What are some of her qualifications? Mrs. Chisholm has been in politics for fifteen years. She holds three college degrees, is a few credits away from receiving her doctorate.

A question asked the Congresswoman, what would be the first thing you would do if you were elected and sent to the White House? She replied, "I would have Cabinet members and heads of the Administration be a broad, cross section of the government". She went on, "A woman would be head of Health, Education and Welfare, a Spanish person head of the State Department and an Indian Secretary of Interior.

Mrs. Chisholm feels she will pick up needed delegate positions in her own state of New York and New Jersey in their Presidential primaries.

"Tough day?"

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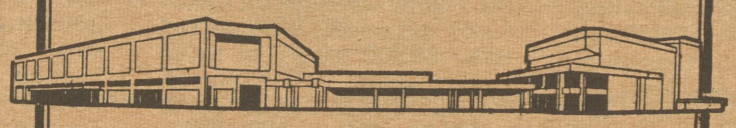

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the children have had notions of worthlessness and expectations of failure drilled into them almost every day they've been alive.

But too many blacks today are being suckered into accepting a rebirth of Jim Crow out of the silly notion that black pride prohibits them from insisting on sharing schools, or country clubs, or swimming pools, or whatever the hell else, with the white people of this nation. Most of the separatists preaching those lies, don't even know what pride is.

Pride is being man enough to insist upon your American birth-rights, even when the white man puts up the fiercest resistance.

Sure, we've seen since 1954, millions of whites who don't want a truly integrated society, they don't want blacks to have a fair share of the goodies of American life. But since when has the black pride to capitulate and say, "Will you give me a little lip over here in the corner because I'm the boss of the Kenyas and everything will be alright."

Some of those people in Gary who approved that anti-busing resolution are even intoxicated with the notion that somehow or other white Americans are going to set up their own separate republic. You can bet that if they ever get around to hand over any of this land to blacks, it will be barren desert and forbidding mountains. And as soon as the black man occupies it, somebody will put a barbed wire fence around it. The truth of it is, that they're not going to hand any of it over.

A black man in America is never going to have any more than he can win or wrestle away in the main stream of competition, whether we're talking about politics or economics. The separatiests and the self-preservators who don't see that have to be blind from frustration and despair. And its these kinds of things you've got to talk about in your cities.

I think there aren't going to be any Model Cities. You've got to talk about the real meaning of power in the American cities today.

Let's talk a little bit about Black Power in the cities. I'm not going to talk so long to prove my wife's definition of an optimist who she says is the woman who puts her shoes back on when I say, "In conclusion." But you know, and I know one of the critical factors in the American city today is the pattern of migration. And it is indeed the pattern of migration that has given some of us the source of a great deal of our pride, the Stauches, the Haxes and Gibbons, the Lees and all of the others who've gained a measure of political power in the American cities. But all of you out there, white and black alike must be aware that in most instances these black men were permitted to rise to a measure of political power only after that power also became an intolerable burden for white men.

Now, there is a quirk in the Census that carries some real danger to the success of the Model City program. Let's just take a brief look at the 1970 Census figures. There's simply no use of our beating around the bush about the factors that make for our present urban extinction, the factors that make our extinctions seem tangled. In fact, surface reports show that during the decade of the sixities black people made some headway in getting out to the suburbs. But as fast as they could run, they've found that the white people were running faster. This development has some impact upon the politics of the American cities.

Now, somebody says, "What's so significant about that?" Well, it's a lot to do with the fact that you don't have the money you need in the cities to do some things that need to be done. Because one of the critical facts of life is that the black family in this country is still living on 61% of the income of the white family. The medium annual income of the black family of large metropolitian areas of '68 was $6,741.00 against $10,343.00 for white families. Now I know how people hate statistics, but that could be the most important sense that I've heard tonight. Because in all the emotionalizing about schools and busing and racial equality, social equality and all this nonsense we get the guy in the corner and he inevitably says, "Well you know I'm not prejudiced. But I don't know about why my children have to go to this school because some of his black kids suffer cultural lag." And I always ask him, "What would it mean if your family was earning $10,000 a year and somebody comes and takes $4,000 away, it would make quite a difference, wouldn't it? You wouldn't eat as well, and you wouldn't clothe your kids as well. You wouldn't send them to white private schools, you wouldn't take your group to any operas or theaters, you wouldn't buy as many books, subscribe to as many newspapers or bring in any other crucial modes of culture. But just you remember this, when you ask about where that little black kid's culture is, remember it's in the pocket of whoever has got that family's $4,000 a year.

There's not going to be any tranquility in the American society, there's not going to be any peace in the American city, there aren't going to be any Model Cities until you get busy propagandizing and agitating to close that economic gap.

Well, are you really altering this trend? Maybe you are. Is Model City really doing anything about the fact that there are hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people living in the cities of America who could not get a doctor at this hour if their s,life depended upon it? And indeed it does.

Well, maybe you are doing something about it. Well, you had better tell me, and the rest of the press; you had better tell congress. You can't hide your light under a bushel. You've got to get to the wire services, the television networks and tell some human stories some individual stories about the miracles of human uplift right from the Model Cities programs. If you don't, nobody going to support you. And the first chance the politicians get in Washington, they're going to whack the program off the way they cut off the head of a rooster.

What do I mean in talking about individual stories? I'm going to tell you one story to illustrate what I'm talking about. You see, I talked about racism and its impact upon the cities. There's another force, almost as pernicious as racism itself. I call it the Horatio Alger Syndrome. Let me tell you a little story about that, and I'm going to sit down.

But I think I can solve the problems of poverty in our cities, and indeed, the whole nation personally if I had a million bucks for every fat cat who's walked up to me and said, "Oh, Carl Rowan, I sure do admire the way you lifted yourselve up by your boot-straps and climbed out of that poverty of McMinville, Tennessee. Now, if you can do it without any government handout, I don't know why all of you lazy bums need to have a food stamp progam and a Model City program and a family assistance plan and all of these other handouts

Now that's an invitation for me to stick my thumbs in my lapels and say, "Yeah, I'm a self-made man and walk on and put my black heel on the throats of America's hungry and harassed. Sure, I've lived in poverty more than most of you can imagine. Enough to know how it means to foreclose horizons, stiffles ambitions, even to the point that only the exceedingly lucky or the extremely able can leap the barriers, and jump the hurdles and get an even chance in the race they call the pursuit of happiness. Sometimes they get up in the introductions and say, "Rowan was exceedingly able." And I don't get up and argue with them. But I tell you one thing, I know how lucky I've been. Because it was just about this time in 1943. Indeed, it was just this time that I stood on the steps of the administration building at Tennessee State College in Nashville saying good-bye to my buddy, Joe Bates, because I didn't have the $20.00 for next quarter's tuition. Well, I worked. I scrubbed those screens, I mopped those floors, I slopped that food around at the T'B' hospital in Nashville and collected my $30.00 a month. When that was gone my buddy Joe Bates said, "Before you leave walk with me to the greasy spoon; I gotta have a pack of cigarettes." I said, "Joe, the greasy spoon don't open until 11:00." He says, "I've got a check and I'm dying for a smoke." So I walked on with him, and sure enough it was padlocked. We turned around and walked back across the litle dirt circle. The dinky bus made its u-turn and the students threw away their bus transfers. Green, always a million of them lying around. We'd taken a few steps up the walk and something said to me, Carl Rowan, one of those green wads lying in the weeds is not a bus transfer. I walked back, picked it up rammed it in my pocket and said to Joe, "I found some money and it didn't look like a one, it might be a five." And when I got around the hedges I opened it and it was a twenty dollar bill. I could've surmised what had happened to somebody on his or her way to pay tuition had lost it. I said Joe, "I just pray to God, who ever lost it doesn't need it as badly as I do." And I walked right up to the Administration Building and paid my tuition for the next quarter. And so help me God, every word of this is true. A few days later I was sitting in history class of Professor Merl M. Knowing that he was inexplicably late, but being an opportunist I was trying to make the most of it by talking a cute little girl, named Ellen Borgan from Detroit, into cutting class and to go for a stroll in Centennial Park. Well, in walked Professor M. and pointed at me and said, "Carl Rowan, come with me to the Dean's office." My heart creased my scalp. Those were the days when a student went to the Dean's office, the student had wondered what he had done wrong.

We walked on in silence and walked into Dean Joyce's office and he said, "Dean Joyce, here is the man who's volunteering to join the navy." I said, "Who Me? I ain't volunteering to join the Navy." He said, 'Shut up boy, you're going to join the Navy."

Dean Joyce said, "Just a minute, Professor M.,"he said,"young man, are you aware that in the whole history of this country there's never been a Negro officer in the Navy?" "Yes sir, I read the Pittsburgh Curator."

He said then, "Are you aware that we often get telegrams here from our government to Negro Tennessee State that they really meant to send to White Tennessee State over in Knoxville?" I said, "No sir I didn't know that."

"National competive exams. Navy officer training, April 7. Hope some of your students will take exams." He says, "I sent him this one, "Dear Mr. Secretary, do you really mean us?" He said, "I got this one back, 'Yes we mean you.' Now I asked Professor M. to look around the campus and pick out a few students who wouldn't look too bad on the exams. We wanted to have someone to pass." He said, "Now I know that out of loyalty to Professor M. and loyalty to your school, and loyalty to your race, and loyalty to your country....."

Well, I took that exam, fortunately I passed, I got that commission. And it turned out to be the great turning point in the life of a green country kid, from McMinnville, Tennessee, Graduating class of '13 and three other guys. And they all went off to the Navy the day after they graduated. And the only thing a black man could be is a cook or a mess attendant. And I stayed that lucky year and got that lucky break and got that commission.

Can you imagine when I walked in the personnel office of the Minneapolis Tribune in 1948 and I said I want a job as a reporter?

And the late Gideon Seymore looked at me and said, "Communications Officer aboard two ships, United States Navy, North Atlantic World War II." Instead of saying, "Number four Mess Attendant." I mean this is the only way our society operates. There's some Horatio Alger types who say, 'Ah-h-h-h, but you had to pass that examination."

Now what's Model Cities all about? Model Cities has got to be about the business of convincing the people who run our cities and our country to enact the programs and finance the programs and make it possible for millions of kids to find their twenty-dollar bills without scrounging around in the weeds. I mean after all, if you don't get out and fight the battle out loud the country's going to go on believing that if you give $70.00 in welfare money to this poor old widow over here with five children you'll destroy the character of her little youngsters. But you can give 43 million dollars to the Lockeed Aircraft Company and not bend a single executive's character. What I'm saying is, that maybe your little profile has its reasons. But I tell you, your profile is going to get so low the politicans are going to throw six feet of dirt on it if you don't get to talking and fighting and convincing this country of thw wisdom of these words once spoken by Justice Bruce. He said, "It is written by the finger of the Almighty on the everlasting tablets of the Universe, that nobody should prosper and endure through whose life does not run the golden thread of exact and universal justice."

If the Model Cities Program is doing the kind of things that weave the golden thread of universal justice, you'd better stop hiding your light under a bushel. And if you aren't weaving any golden threads of universal justice you don't have any right to continue to exist. We're all wasting our time. Which I think we're not."

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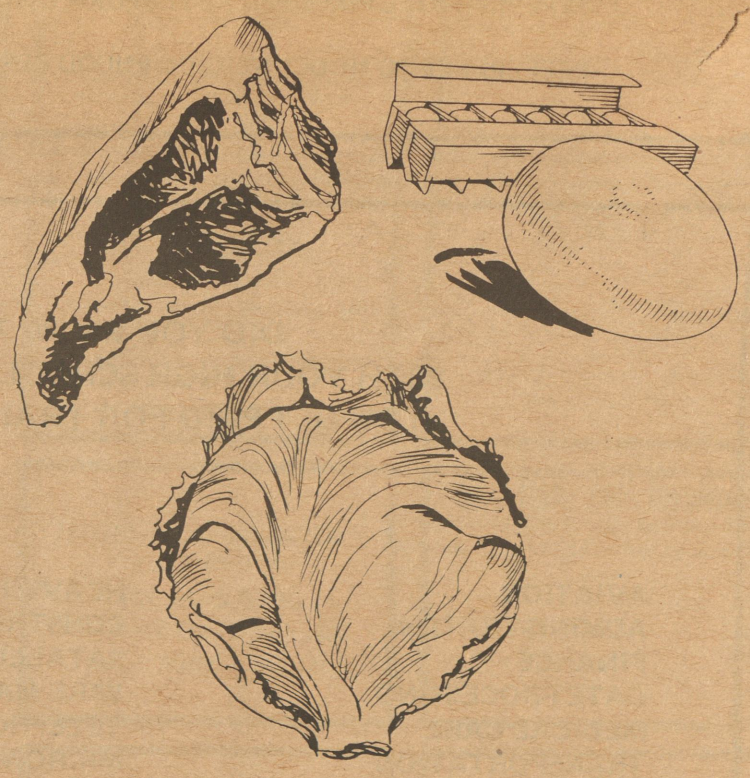

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INSTITUTIONS FACING INCREASING MINORITY PRESSURE

By Milton J. Robinson, Executive Director
Michigan Civil Rights Commission

Be it a college, governmental unit or bank, institutions in Michigan are facing increasing pressure to become more responsive to minority groups.

Unfortunately, many institutions are slow to respond adequately, even though the minority community's requests for services may be identical to those of the majority community.

When institutions are not responsive, minority groups, as a result of previous experience, frequently engage in demonstrations which sometimes lead to violence.

However, institutions could prevent such actions by responding as quickly, fairly and honestly to minorities as they do to the majority community.

To do this, the institutions must become as sensitive to the history, development and problems of the minority community as they are to those aspects of the majority.

Integrity Challenged

But, rather than making such a positive response, many institutions attempt to eliminate minority group pressure by challenging the integrity of the group.

The minority group representatives are asked such questions as "Whom do you represent?" or "Who are your members?"

The institution may then conclude that "you do not represent all the black (or Chicano) citizens in your community, therefore we cannot respond to you."

The next step is to locate an indicidual from the black (or Chicano community who will refute the position of the pressuring group.

The objective, of course, is to discredit the group.

Rarely is the problem acknowledged as being a legitimate cause for concern.

Rarely is the willingness of the pressuring group to help solve the problem acknowledged, let alone utilized.

In effect, the group is seen as being illegitimate and irrelevant.

Yet, how much more productive might it be for the institutions to recognize the group as a very necessary vehicle to bridge the gap between themselves and the minority community.

Recently, I heard James Linen, chairman of the executive committee of Time-Life, Inc., speak before a group of businessmen.

Quoting from a "Pogo" cartoon, he said:

"'We have met the enemy and he is us.'"

If institutions would undergo this type of self-analysis they would find themselves spending less time discrediting minority pressure groups and more time correcting injustices and closing the creditability gap.

Hostility Results

It's apparent to me that if institutions will not allow minority pressure groups to work within the system, they will be forced to go outside the system.

The result is hostility; the group becoming increasingly alienated and the institutions becoming increasingly oppressive.

At this point, basic freedoms are destroyed; democracy is lessened.

It is incumbent upon our state's institutions to make the necessary adjustments to close disparities in service.

The alternative is to make a mockery of the rights guaranteed to all citizens.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
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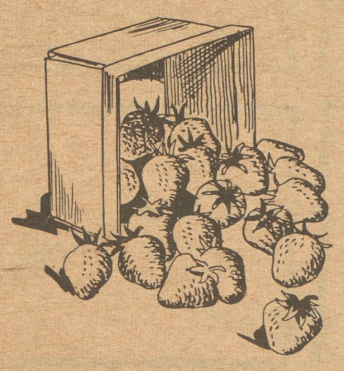

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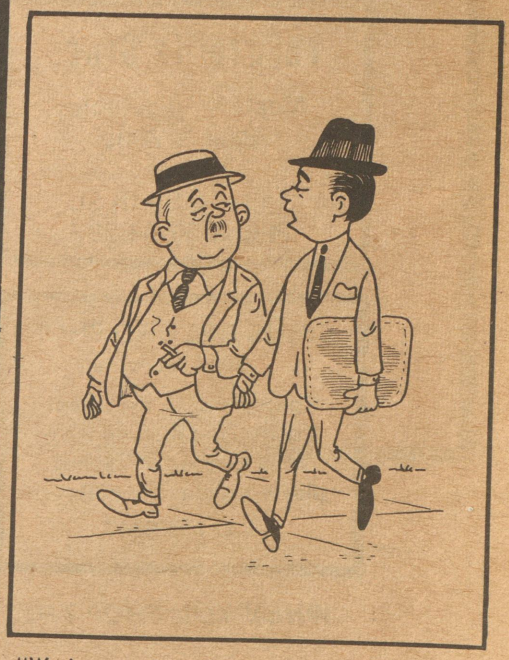

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